

**ROENTGEN, RADIUM AND RADIOISOTOPE THERAPY.** A. J. Delario, M.D., member of the American College of Radiology; American Board of Radiology; Head of Therapeutic Radiology, St. Joseph Hospital, Paterson, N. J. Lea & Febiger, 1953. 371 pages, 65 illustrations, 155 tables, \$7.50.

The practice of clinical radiology, like other forms of medicine and surgery, involves both art and science. The scientific part is compounded of various portions of Physics, Chemistry, Physiology, Pharmacology and so forth. This interesting little book stresses principally the physical aspects of the field of therapeutic radiology.

After chapters on the composition of matter, the production of ionizing radiation and the nature of roentgen rays, there are sections dealing with methods of measuring ionizing radiation and a discussion of the physical factors involved in tissue ionization. The author discusses the biological changes produced by radiation, the erythema dose, the recovery of tissue from radiation and the types of injury caused by ionizing radiation. Along with conventional roentgen and radium rays, he discusses ultra-high voltage radiations, radioactive isotopes and other modalities.

As a result of his preoccupation with physical measurements, the sections on recommended clinical radiation dosage tend to be brief and therefore arbitrary. If human tissues, and especially human tumors were standardized, many of the dosage figures he gives would probably be of considerable value. However, each tumor is a law almost unto itself, and is surrounded by a host of highly variable biologic nature. As a result the effective dose for tumor A in patient B may be somewhat different from the effective dose for tumor B in patient A. Nevertheless, the galaxy of facts of interest to radiologists, and those concerned with radiation effects, which the author has assembled into one convenient place, is to be commended. He is chief of the therapeutic radiology division of St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson, New Jersey.

There is a bibliography of over three hundred references and an adequate index.

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**POLIOMYELITIS.** W. Ritchie Russell, C.B.E., M.D. (Edin.), M.A. (Oxon.), F.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), Consultant Neurologist to the United Oxford Hospitals, Consultant Neurologist to the Army, Clinical Lecturer in Neurology, University of Oxford. Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1952. 84 pages, \$3.00.

This book presents a review of the literature, largely American in origin, in the form of a relatively short dissertation on the causes, epidemiology, diagnosis, and treatment of poliomyelitis. The section on differential diagnosis is lamentably weak, and the treatment offers nothing that is new, and much that we believe to be in error, such as prolonged postural (head-down position) drainage, which has been proven to impair respiration after 15 minutes in patients suffering from severe respiratory inadequacy, due to the weight of the abdominal viscera on the diaphragm.

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**THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF THE SURGICAL PATIENT.** J. Englebert Dunphy, M.D., F.A.C.S., Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School; and Thomas W. Botsford, M.D., F.A.C.S., Clinical Associate in Surgery, Harvard Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1953. 326 pages with 188 figures, \$7.50.

As the authors state in the preface, this book is designed to focus attention on the methods and importance of eliciting signs in surgical conditions. It is a timely book for this age, in which it has become so popular to rely exclusively on myriads of laboratory tests for a diagnosis. The authors have

written in a clear and concise manner, and have covered thoroughly the methods of performing a physical examination of various organs and what one might expect to see, feel and hear in the various surgical diseases. The book is divided into two parts, each with subdivisions by systems or organs. The first part is designated "the elective examination," and the second part "the emergency examination." It is particularly recommended for the younger generation who seem to depend entirely too much upon the laboratory for a diagnosis.

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**HANDBOOK OF TREATMENT OF ACUTE POISONING.** E. H. Bensley, M.B.E., B.A., M.D., F.A.C.P., Director, Department of Metabolism and Toxicology, Montreal General Hospital; and Associate Professor of Experimental Medicine & Lecturer in Toxicology, McGill University; and G. E. Joron, B.A., M.D., C.M., Dip.Int.Med., Demonstrator in Medicine, McGill University and Junior Assistant, Department of Medicine, Montreal General Hospital. Renouf Publishing Company, Ltd., 2182 St. Catherine St. W., Montreal 25, Que., Canada. 201 pages, \$2.50.

A book so small that it can be conveniently placed in the pocket or in the physician's bag, with up-to-date and complete information on the treatment of poisoning is the thing to be desired. This book accomplishes these requirements to an unusual extent. It contains but 200 pages, is 4½x7 inches in dimensions, gives the principal symptoms and signs of poisoning by most of the substances encountered in a medical practice outside of industrial medicine and lists in one, two, three order the first aid treatment to be carried out by the physician. Basic principles are discussed in the 35 pages of section 1. The fact that reasons for specific symptoms and treatments are not discussed does not detract from the value of this book as a quick reference for what to do when.

A distinct lack is the treatment of poisoning by insecticides, other than the organic phosphate cholinesterase inhibitors. It is obvious that the authors have had practical experience in the field of toxicology. For example, they emphasize oxygen administration even in the absence of frank cyanosis in poisoning by depressant drugs and they wisely advise preventing overdistention of the urinary bladder, and watching for signs of bronchopneumonia. The reviewer takes issue with two items of treatment; dilute permanganate solution is frequently advocated, contrary to present evidence that it is of little value, and probably dangerous, and ethyl alcohol is advocated in methyl alcohol poisoning. It has recently been shown that although theoretically there may be a metabolic antagonism between these two alcohols, there is no therapeutic antagonism.

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**FOOL'S HAVEN.** C. C. Cawley. House of Edinboro, 21 Edinboro Street, Boston 11, 1953. 238 pages, \$2.75.

Death from reliance on faith and prayer is the theme of this novel. The hero, a Caltech student, falls in love with his landlady's daughter, a high school senior. Their marriage is set for two days after her graduation but is cancelled by her death.

Throughout the courtship the hero realizes that the girl's mother is fanatically religious and has carried her daughter and younger son along with her. The mother bases her reliance on prayer on the fact that doctors had failed to save her husband's life and that a neighbor's son had been operated on for appendicitis and had died. The facts that her husband's disease was incurable and that the neighbor's son had been kept from medical attention until too late do not impress her. The pastor of her church, a self-ordained minister, does impress her and she places herself and her family in his hands and those of the church elders.

When death, aided by a ruptured appendix, does take the daughter, the mother recants none of her philosophy